ORIGIN/ACTION EUR-6

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State, WASHINGTON

INFO: Amembassy ALGIERS, AMMAN, BAGHDAD, BEIRUT, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, JIDDA, KHARTOUM, KUWAIT, NOUAKCHOTT, RABAT, RAIZ, TEL AVIV, TUNIS

FROM : Amembassy PARIS DATE: March 30, 1966

SUBJECT: Franco-Isreal Offset Agreement

REF : Tel Aviv's T-881 to the Department dated March 9, 1966

The Embassy has little to add to the information contained in the reference telegram. French Foreign Office and Israeli sources have been very close-mouthed concerning the visit of Israeli's Deputy Minister of Defense DINSTEIN; they have confined their comments on the agreement signed by him here to the statement that the accord authorized Israel to manufacture unspecified military spare parts and components for French use; this Israeli production to offset 25 percent of Israel's defense purchases in France.

Our sources carefully sidestepped all probes as to the nature of the parts and components to be manufactured by Israel. They described the agreement however as a tacit extension of previous, similar Franco-Israeli arrangements.

Similar information appears in the March 18, 1966, issue of l'OBSERVATEUR du MOYEN ORIENT (p. 8) in the Elkana GALLI article entitled La Réalité Franco-Israelienne: Une Mise au Point.

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FOR THE AMBASSADOR

Ernest L. Stanger

Ernest L. Stanger
First Secretary of Embassy

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Drafted by: POL:PSebastian:caf:3-29-66

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